

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Ikemoto et al.

Art Unit: Unassigned

Application No. Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: February 28, 2002

For: PRODUCTION METHOD OF CITALOPRAM,
INTERMEDIATE THEREFOR AND PRODUCTION METHOD
OF THE INTERMEDIATE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, between lines 3 and 4 (i.e. immediately after the title), please add the following paragraph:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This patent application is a divisional of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/654,768, filed September 5, 2000.

IN THE CLAIMS:

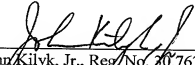
Please cancel claims 8-16 and 18-20.

REMARKS

The subject patent application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/654,768 and pursues those claims cancelled in the parent application in response to the restriction requirement therein. Accordingly, claims 8-16 and 18-20 have been canceled, and claims 1-7 and 17 remain pending in the subject patent application. No new matter has been added by way of the claim amendments. The precise changes to the claims, as well as the text of the pending claims as amended, are set forth on separate attachments hereto.

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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**AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS
MADE VIA PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

*(Deletions are indicated by cross-out text,
while additions are indicated by underlined text)*

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, between lines 2 and 3 (i.e. immediately after the title), please add the following paragraph:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This patent application is a divisional of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/654,768, filed September 5, 2000.

IN THE CLAIMS:

8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)

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12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

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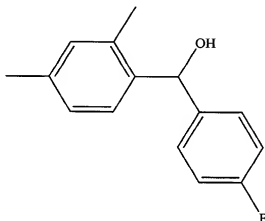
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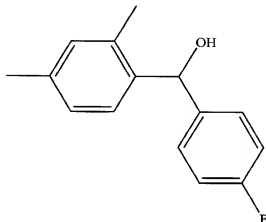
PENDING CLAIMS AFTER ENTRY OF PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

1. A compound of the formula [I]



[I]

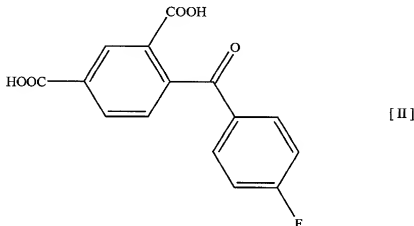
2. A production method of a compound of the formula [I]



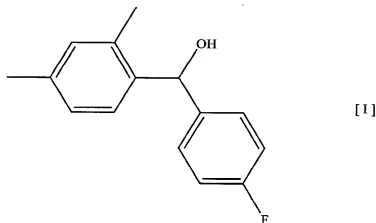
[I]

which comprises converting 4-bromofluorobenzene to 4-fluorophenylmagnesium bromide, and reacting the 4-fluorophenylmagnesium bromide with 2, 4-dimethylbenzaldehyde.

3. A production method of a compound of the formula [II]

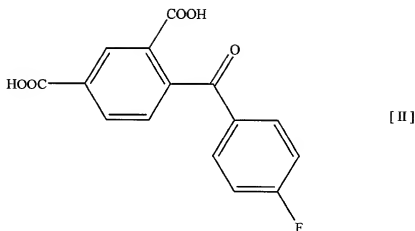


which comprises oxidizing a compound of the formula [I]



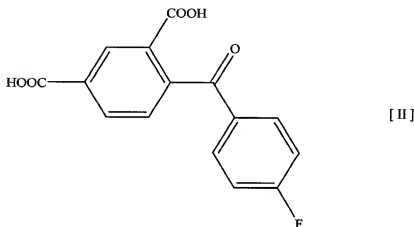
4. A production method of 1,3-dimethyl-4-(4'-fluorobenzoyl)benzene, which comprises subjecting m-xylene as a starting material and solvent to Friedel-Crafts reaction with 4-fluorobenzoyl halide.

5. A production method of a compound of the formula [II]



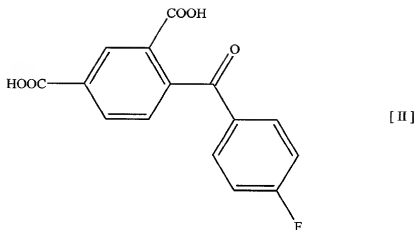
which comprises subjecting m-xylene as a starting material and solvent to Friedel-Crafts reaction with 4-fluorobenzoyl halide to give 1, 3-dimethyl-4-(4'-fluorobenzoyl)benzene and oxidizing said 1, 3-dimethyl-4-(4'-fluorobenzoyl)benzene.

6. A production method of a compound of the formula [II]



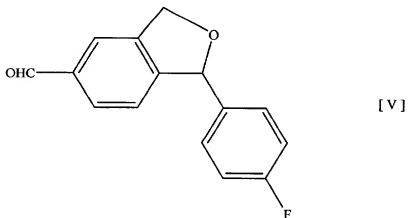
which comprises subjecting 2,4-dimethylbenzoyl halide to Friedel-Crafts reaction with fluorobenzene to give 1,3-dimethyl-4-(4'-fluorobenzoyl)benzene and oxidizing said 1,3-dimethyl-4-(4'-fluorobenzoyl)benzene.

7. A production method of a compound of the formula [II]

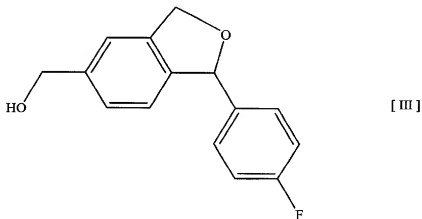


which comprises subjecting trimellitic anhydride to Friedel-Crafts reaction with fluorobenzene in a dichloro-substituted or trichloro-substituted benzene solvent.

17. A production method of a compound of the formula [V]



which comprises oxidizing a compound of the formula [III]



with manganese dioxide.